

# PractitionerUpdate

New York State Department of Health

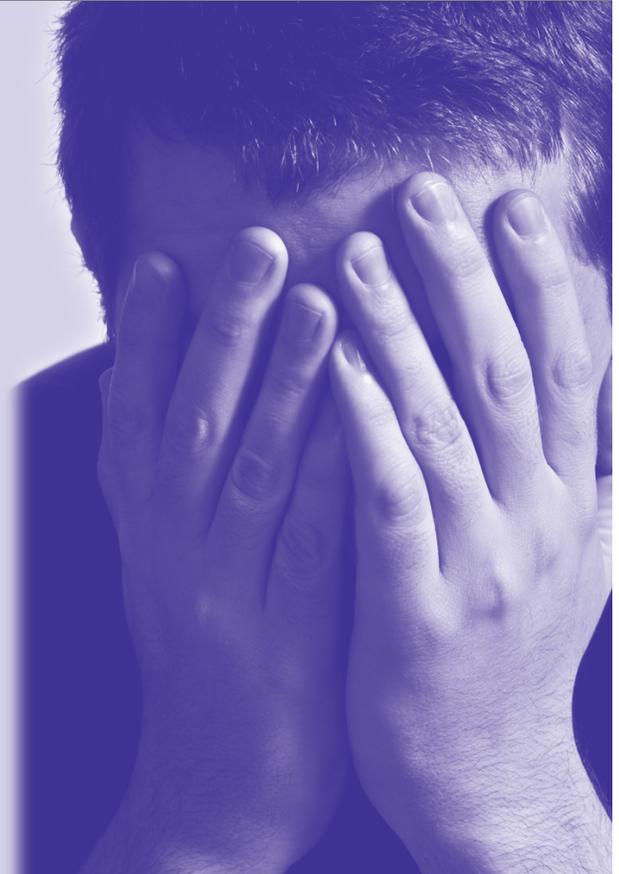
Winter 2010

Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

## Buprenorphine

The Department of Health (DOH) has launched a campaign to educate the public and health care providers about the use of buprenorphine as a treatment option for addiction to prescription opioids. Buprenorphine has been shown to be an effective treatment option for opioid dependence and can be offered as an office-based treatment program. Through a grant funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, a radio campaign has been initiated to draw attention to prescription narcotic addiction and encourage addicted individuals to seek rehabilitative treatment. In addition, physicians and pharmacies statewide will shortly be provided with printed materials which highlight that addiction can be effectively treated with buprenorphine, which can be prescribed in the privacy of a physician's office and dispensed by a pharmacy. Physicians (licensed under State law to practice medicine) will also be encouraged to become qualified to treat their patients who are addicted to opioids or to advise such patients to obtain treatment from a qualified physician. Physicians who are qualified to treat opioid addiction, but are not prescribing buprenorphine, may also join a buprenorphine mentorship program. This campaign is being coordinated with the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

More information about buprenorphine is available at [www.nyhealth.gov/bupe](http://www.nyhealth.gov/bupe). Questions about the buprenorphine campaign can be directed to the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement at 1-877-866-7957.



## National Drug Code Reporting

Practitioners who dispense controlled substances to patients, including animals, are required to submit the dispensing data to the Department through their Health Commerce System (HCS) Account. Such data must be reported to the Department by the 15th of the month in which the controlled substance was dispensed.

The data submitted must include, but is not limited to, the National Drug Code

(NDC) of the controlled substance.

The NDC is a unique, 10-digit, 3-segment number that is located on the label, often in proximity to the UPC code. The NDC number identifies the labeler, product and trade package size. The Bureau has been experiencing an increase in errors related to how the NDC has been submitted. When submitting data, a leading zero must be placed at the BEGINNING of each segment so that it will always contain a 5-4-2 configuration (i.e., 00000-0000-00). The correct

reporting of this information is vital to the Bureau's efforts to analyze dispensing data, which guides public health policy. In addition, incorrect submissions of the dispensing data may lead to violations. If you are a practitioner who dispenses controlled substances and need assistance with NDC reporting, please contact the Bureau at 1-866-811-7957 (Option #1).



**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT**

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[www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic](http://www.nyhealth.gov/professionals/narcotic)